Earnings levels guide

Guide to labour statistics

Learn about our earnings levels measures and how to use them

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Overview

Earnings level estimates measure the value of earnings in dollar terms. The Earnings guide (/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide) includes information about other earnings measures.

Headline measure

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/average-weekly-earnings-australia/latest-release) (AWE) is our headline measure of average earnings.

We have produced average weekly earnings estimates since 1941. The current survey commenced in 1983 and data

has been released every six months since 2012, and quarterly before that. You can learn more about AWE over time on the Average Weekly Earnings methodology (/methodologies/average-weekly-earnings-australia-methodology/may-2022#history-of-changes) page.

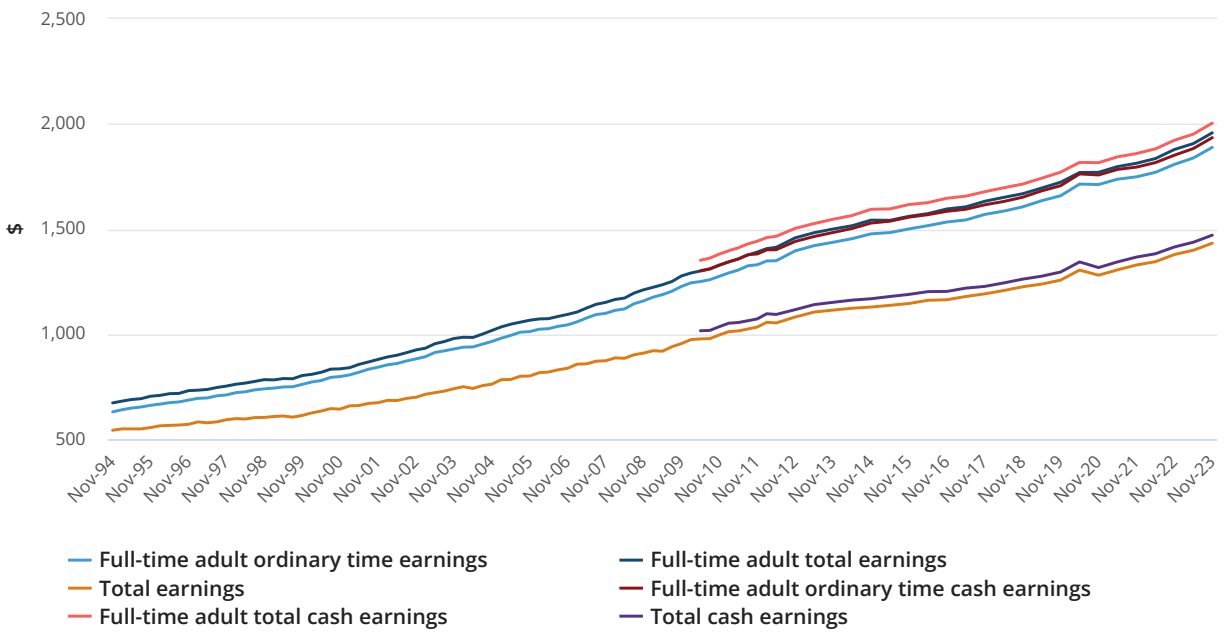
AWE provides estimates by sex, state/territory, and public/private sector for three earnings series:

- Full-time adult ordinary time earnings
- Full-time adult total earnings
- Total earnings.

We also produce a cash earnings series, which is the most comprehensive measure of average earnings in Australia.

You can use AWE to analyse earnings levels over time.

Average weekly earnings (Original)



Source: Average Weekly Earnings, May 2023 (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/average-weekly-earnings-australia/nov-2023)

Other estimates

Other sources of earnings level estimates provide extra detail beyond what is available from AWE.

Employee Earnings and Hours

- Composition and distribution of weekly and hourly earnings, hours paid for and pay-setting methods.
- Includes data by full-time/part-time status, industry, sex, state/territory, public/private sector, age, casual status and occupation.
- Employee Earnings and Hours (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/employee-earnings-and-hours-australia/latest-release) is sourced from the two-yearly Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours.

Employee earnings

- Includes earnings data by sex, state/territory, occupation, industry and education qualifications.
- Employee earnings (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/employee-earnings/latest-release) is sourced from the annual Characteristics of Employment Labour Force supplementary survey.

Personal Income in Australia

- Personal income estimates (including employee earnings) by age, sex, state/territory, and over 2,200 regions.
- Personal Income in Australia (/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/personal-income-australia/latest-release) is sourced from the Linked Employer-Employee Dataset (LEED), which is based on tax data.

See the Earnings chapter (/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/labour-statistics-concepts-sources-and-methods/2023/concepts-and-sources/earnings) of the Labour Statistics Concepts, Sources and Methods for more information on earnings concepts and measures.